



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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Sen. Allen and Rep. Palsrok's Great Lakes Protection Fund bills signed by governor

Lansing – Boaters will now be able to purchase a special watercraft decal to support the Great Lakes Protection Fund, Sen. Jason Allen (R-Traverse City) and Rep. David Palsrok (R-Manistee) announced today.

On Thursday, Senate Bill 536, introduced by Allen in the Senate to establish the Great Lakes Protection Fund, was signed into law by the governor as Public Act 293. Palsrok sponsored Public Act 294 of 2003. A third bill, which outlines the fiscal responsibilities of the act also was enacted as part of this package.

The GLPF is designed to provide funding and greater awareness of efforts to eradicate aquatic nuisance species in Michigan waters and to conduct general research on Great Lakes protection issues.

“This fund will help protect Michigan’s greatest natural resource, our Great Lakes, from predatory invasive species that are threatening our fish populations and ecosystem,” Allen said. “By purchasing a decal, residents across our great state can show their support to help keep our waters free of aquatic nuisance species.”

The decals will be available to any boater in Michigan in a distribution plan developed by the Secretary of State. The purchase price of the decal will be \$35, with \$25 going to the Great Lakes Protection Fund and \$10 for administrative costs.

“There’s about a million registered watercraft owners in Michigan who can really increase the fight against nuisance species by participating in this program,” said Palsrok, chair of the House Great Lakes and Tourism Committee. “Boaters displaying the stickers will show they care about the health and quality of Michigan lakes and help maintain our waters for future generations to enjoy.”

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